

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 14015 230039Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EA-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CAB-05 COME-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 INR-07 FAA-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OC-06
CCO-00 WRD-01 IO-14 SCS-05 SCA-01 PER-05 STE-01
PM-05 H-02 L-03 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /133 W
-----009403 230053Z /65

O R 221721Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7537
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
SECDEF WASHDC
USCINCEUR

UNCLAS LONDON 14015

WASHDC BRUSSELS PASS FAA
DEPT PASS OTHER APPROPRIATE ADDRESSEES

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, UK
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SUBJECT: SITREP ON U.K. AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL STRIKE

1. THE UNION REPRESENTING THE U.K. AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL
ASSISTANTS (ATCA) ANNOUNCED TODAY THE RESULTS OF ASTRIK
VOTE. THE ATCA'S VOTED 507 TO 42 TO STRIKE FROM THE
END OF THE P.M. SHIFT (MIDNIGHT) ON THURSDAY AUGUST 25
TO MIDNIGHT ON MONDAY, AUGUST 29.

2. THE STRIKE VOTE WILL HAVE THE EFFECT OF INCREASING THE WORKLOAD ON ALL AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL OFFICERS (ATCO) AND THEREBY REDUCING THE CAPACITY OF THE U.K. AIRSPACE TO APPROXIMATELY 40 PERCENT OF TOTAL CAPACITY. THE U.K. NATIONAL AIR TRAFFIC SERVICE (NATS) ARE NOTIFYING THE VARIOUS AIR CARRIERS AND OTHER USERS OF THE SYSTEM TO MAKE PLANS FOR THIS DRASTICALLY REDUCED CAPACITY. THE SCHEDULING COMMITTEES OF THE IATA CARRIERS WILL BE DEVISING PLANS TO MAKE REDUCTIONS IN SCHEDULES AND STILL MAINTAIN AS MANY SERVICES AS POSSIBLE.

3. THE OCEANIC CONTROL AT SHANWICK WILL BE IMPLEMENTING FLOW CONTROL ON THE NORTH ATLANTIC WHICH WILL RESULT IN 18-20 AIRCRAFT PER HOUR INSTEAD OF THE NORMAL 30 BEING HANDLED.

4. THERE ARE OTHER COMPLICATING FACTORS WHICH MAKE THE SITUATION EVEN MORE DISTURBING AND UNCERTAIN. BOTH THE SPANISH AND GREEK CONTROLLERS ARE HANDLING REDUCED NUMBERS OF AIRCRAFT WHICH CHOKES THE OVERALL EUROPEAN SYSTEM. AND TODAY IT HAS BEEN LEARNED THAT THERE ARE UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT THE FRENCH CONTROLLERS MAY START A WORK-TO-RULE REGIME FROM AUGUST 26 TO SEPTEMBER 5. WITH BLOCKAGE TO THE EAST OF THE U.K. AND FLOW CONTROL ON THE NORTH ATLANTIC, THE POTENTIAL FOR DELAYS UNCLASSIFIED

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IS ENORMOUS.

5. EMBASSY ACTION. THE EMBASSY HAS SET UP A TASK FORCE TO MONITOR, REPORT ON, AND DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM. WE ARE AUGMENTING OUR CONSULAR SERVICES TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO STRANDED AND OTHER TROUBLED TRAVELLERS - WHOSE CALLS ARE BEGINNING TO REACH THE EMBASSY IN SOME NUMBERS. IF ASKED BY THE PRESS, WE SHALL SAY THAT THE EMBASSY IS TAKING ALL STEPS POSSIBLE TO RELIEVE DISTRESSED TRAVELLERS.

6. OFFICIAL TRAVELLERS. IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES WE RECOMMEND THAT OFFICIAL TRAVELLERS AVOID, IF POSSIBLE, TRAVEL TO THE UK UNTIL THE SITUATION IMPROVES. THE REDUCED AIR TRAFFIC CAPACITY WILL ALSO AFFECT MILITARY AIRCRAFT. WE RECOMMEND DIVERSION OF MILITARY TRAVELLERS

7. DEPT PLEASE ENSURE THAT THIS TELEGRAM IS PASSED TO SCA.

STREATOR

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Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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